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Men, Books, People & Things by Ed. S. Martin

In view of the free advice I have given regarding New England farms, some of my readers have very properly asked me if I am personally acquainted with the localities mentioned.

Let me tell you a secret! I have a New England farm myself, 90 acres (I wish I had more) in New Hampshire not far from a lovely lake, near a river, with a trout stream all our own, 500 sugar maples and sap-house, 20 acres in black loam fields, apple, peach, cherry and plum trees, grapes, berries, cottage of six rooms, shop, barn, woodshed, poultry house, carriage house, cellars.

A good road winds along elm-lined, one and a half miles to the village. It is four miles to railroad depot, thank the Lord, and only two miles from Lake Umbagog.

Concord, the capital, isn't far: Manchester, Contoocook and other pleasant towns.

Besides, I was born and brought up on a farm on the same stretch of land New Hampshire and Vermont are made of. Though my father wasn't a farmer, he had 400 acres of land which served him well, and gave us boys a chance for first-hand acquaintance with God's own handiwork. We picked up stones in summer vacation, and filled the kitchen nook with firewood from the shed in winter.

Father wanted to make farmers of us all but we were none of us far-seeing enough to follow his advice.

The dad had not arrived yet. Then farm life in out-of-the-way places wasn't as pleasant and comfortable as it is now. Boys left the farm; now they are going back. Let us confess it, farming was something of a drug for farmers' wives and children—and the poor farmer himself. It is very different now. Science has invaded the country and forced its conveniences and luxuries upon the poorest.

Trolleys, telephones, pianos, phonographs, the library, rural free delivery, electric lights, gas, everything almost of which the city boasts, except its dust and noise, are a part of country life. The "moss-back" and "hayseed" have disappeared from New England, and the farmer's daughter is no longer a subject for the artist and poet. The country has become civilized and the city countrified.

This fact in a measure explains why farming has become popular not only with city men but with farmers' boys.

As things were you could not very much blame boys and girls for leaving the old farm.

The Sunset Magazine. In looking over some old numbers of this magazine when it was edited by Aiken and published by the Southern Pacific Company, I am impressed with its steady decline editorially and in all essentials.

We miss the interesting contributions on the Sierras, Yosemite, and various sections of California, the gossip papers and the verse. Not a page in the present publication has the interest and literary value of the old.

"The Pulse of the Pacific" notes resemble the observations of "The Man About the Street" in some country newspaper. A few well known names of writers take the place of titles of articles at the head of a page. These contributions are generally stories not always worth the price paid for them.

If the write-ups are disinterested, they are not interesting, which they used to be under the old regime.

Most readers would rather have a locality boosted even hilariously than some author who has all the reputation he can carry. The absence of Waterhouse's "Sunset Rays" is a decided loss, and in its assumption of high literary character nothing in the magazine makes up for the loss of tone and interest now apparent.

The Medical Pickwick.

Sarahac Lake, N. Y.—Monthly \$2.

This new publication has made itself a necessity in every well regulated physician's family and is welcomed by many a layman who finds it as entertaining and humorous as "Life" or "Puck."

It is published by Drs. S. C. Martin and J. MacDonald, both pastmasters in medical journalism, and the issue of splendid typographical. Dr. Samuel M. Brickner, the editor, shows literary care and discrimination, and is jealous of the reputation which his new journal has already secured among the best people in the land.

In the October number is a poem by A. M. Corwin, M. D., whose father used to be minister at Central Union. I believe the doctor was born here.

Anecdotes of Dr. Nicholas Senn, by Dr. Broome; "On Dr. Gemunder," by Dr. Zyza, are other articles.

Drs. R. L. Thompson, Geo. F. Butler, John Robinson and Dr. E. S. Goodhue will have contributions in the November number.

"No doctor's office can afford to be without this attractive and interesting magazine," says an exchange.

GIRLS SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF VANITIES?

Did it ever occur to you that a certain amount of conceit might be a valuable asset? As a rule, one hears vanity and pride derided and scorned. We all dislike the conceited girl with her airs and graces. And yet there are many persons walking the globe who would be far better off for a little honest conceit. Overmuch modesty is quite as big a bane as overmuch vanity, but a moderate amount of both make an excellent combination.

The girl who is without a trace of pride or vanity is rather a hopeless creature. Sometimes she may possess an innate sense of neatness, which is all that makes her pay any attention to her appearance at all. But such a one never makes the slightest attempt to improve her looks, because she considers herself beyond the pale.

You would be surprised to know how many such girls there are. They are not in the majority, to be sure, because the average feminine creature is born with her own share of vanity. But, nevertheless, there are all too many who are out of conceit with themselves and the world. In most cases they would be vastly improved in every way if they could learn to think more of themselves.

Vanity inspires.

A bit of vanity is really inspiring. It teaches one to try to look one's best at all times. The girl who approves even mildly of her own appearance is careful not to allow herself to run down, but keeps herself up to a certain mark which she has set for herself. If she looks in the glass one morning and finds her skin looking sallow or her hair looking lifeless, she sets to work repairing it at once.

The girl with a certain amount of conceit is careful to buy only the clothes which make her appear at her best. Consequently, though she may not be a pretty girl at all, yet she always looks well.

The overmodest girl, on the contrary, never takes pains to study her own good points. She makes no endeavor to enter the lists for beauty, but lets herself go, buying the clothes that are at hand, without ascertaining whether they bring out the best or the worst in their appearance.

Even a girl who is impossibly plain in face and figure need not and should not be without a spark of vanity. Because if she has enough conceit she will make herself attractive in other ways besides in her appearance. One sees many, many instances where a girl without a vestige of beauty has far greater popularity with men and wo-

men than her sister, who is lovely to look upon.

Brings Out One's Best.

There is no doubt of it at all that a little vanity does more to bring out a girl's best than all the modesty in the world. This does not mean that we should let ourselves grow puffed and silly with conceit. After all, overweening conceit is certainly a sign of inferior intelligence, for no one with common sense would ever allow themselves to become foolishly vain.

There are always scores of others far more intelligent, more beautiful, more attractive, more gifted and more fascinating than we are, if we search with impartial eyes. To be the most accomplished and wonderful woman in the world is quite impossible, except in one's own mind, for at least a hundred other contestants would claim the same title. So, no matter how pretty or attractive a girl may be, she would be a silly idiot to become inflated over her charms. In fact, no one with any real claims to intelligence ever does become over-conceited.

Nevertheless, every girl should instill some grains of vanity in her system. Without it she will lose her looks and her charms. But that little spark of conceit will keep her up to the mark, will keep alive her interest in herself and others and will make her far more attractive in every way. Vanity in the proper proportions will work wonders in the weaker sex, and every one of us should have a moderate share.

HOLLAND PUTS SUFFRAGE LAW ON HER BOOKS

THE HAGUE.—Woman's suffrage has been made an essential part of the government's program in Holland. A bill making suffrage possible through an amendment of the constitutional law of the Netherlands, has just been brought into Parliament.

The bill involves also other changes in the organic law. It proposes, to extend the right of voting to all male citizens who have reached the age of 23 and are not excluded by certain disabilities, "and also to female citizens who have reached the same age."

It is stated that the passage of the bill will not of itself bring suffrage into being, but will only pave the way for it. A further revision of the existing electoral law will then be in order, putting into effect the principle thus embodied in the Constitution.

The new constitutional amendment also introduces proportional representation in the different representative bodies, the second chamber of house of representatives, the provincial

councils and the municipal councils. The members of the senate, or first chamber, are elected by the different provincial councils.

FACTORY WASTE TO BE UTILIZED FOR FOOD

FRANKFORT ON MAIN, Germany.—In the search for food substitutes scientists have discovered that the waste of celluloid factories throughout Germany contains some 300,000 tons of organic substance with from 10 to 15 per cent of sugar.

The relatively high cost of extracting this sugary substance has heretofore stood in the way of making use of the waste. Now that prices have soared, however, a serious effort is being made to preserve it, even at considerable expense, and to use it in feeding the civil population of the empire.

The waste also contains a high percentage of lime, which, however, has to be removed from the sugar at considerable cost. The proposed use of the waste has the additional advantage that German rivers, into which it at present flows, will be the cleaner for the process.

BEER SALES LESSENED BY NEW LIQUOR LAWS

LONDON, England.—A statement made public by representatives of the British liquor trade shows that the rigid restrictions on the sale of alcoholic beverages imposed since the war

begin, have curtailed the sale of beer about 17 per cent. But on the other hand, there has been an increase in the sale of spirits of 19 per cent. Drinking across the bar, it is added, has lessened to a marked degree, but the "bottle trade" has increased correspondingly. According to dealers, spirits are chosen in preference to beer for drinking at home, as they are easier to carry.

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